



## **STUDENT VOICE AGENDA**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 2.30pm.

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*In the Chair – Michael Wilson, Union Chair.*

### **1. Members Present**

### **2. Apologies**

### **3. Chair's Notice**

The Chair of student voice gives notice that committee elections will take place in this meeting for the SAUWS Disciplinary Panel.

### **4. Minutes and Matters Arising**

- a) Matters of accuracy
- b) Matters arising

### **5. Items of Business**

- a) Accountability Statement – Update from Union Chair (verbal)
- b) Governance update – Update from the Union Chair (verbal)
- c) Motions
  - i. Gender Neutral Bathrooms
  - ii. We stand with Spanish Students
  - iii. Policy Passed in Academic Year 2011-12
    - a. Equal Marriage
    - b. Extended Curfew Time
    - c. Burlesque Motion
    - d. Library Fines Amnesty
    - e. A Helpline On Student cards
- d) Disciplinary Committee elections

### **6. Any Other Competent Business**



## **STUDENT VOICE MINUTES - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 2pm.**

*In the Chair – Michael Wilson, Union Chair.*

### **1. Members Present**

Heather Armstrong	President of Societies and Citizenship/Senior Student Representative (SSR)
Lisa McCusker	President of Student Support (PofSS)
Emma Shotter	Disabled Student Officer
Jack Douglas	Social Science
Megan Tait	Social Science
Cameron Stuart	Social Science
Mark MacPhail	Business Technology

### In attendance

David Devlin	Membership Development Manager (MDM)
Linsey Roseman	Membership Administrator

### **2. Apologies**

John Black	President of Education
Johnathan Cranstoun	President of Sport and Wellbeing
Kate Morrison	LGBT+ Student Officer

### **3. Chair's Notice**

The Union Chair (Chair of Student Voice) welcomed all to the first meeting of Voice for academic session 2016-17. Chair gave notice that the committee elections will take place in this meeting. There will be two sets of elections; one for the SAUWS Disciplinary Committee and its members and the other for the two positions on the Appointments Committee. Members were made aware that the appointments committee's remit is still subject to approval by the Board of Trustees and as such it may not meet until the trimester 2 at the earliest.

### **4. Minutes and Matters Arising**

- a) Matters of accuracy – None raise
- b) Matters arising – Removal of External Trustees from the Agenda

Jack Douglas questioned why the ratification of student trustees was removed from the agenda of Voice. Chair explained that Voice should have discussed ratification in this meeting, but due to some internal issues it has been postponed to the next meeting on November 30th. Chair promised to keep Jack and other students up to date on all matters relating to external trustee ratification and stated that it is the Chair's hope that ratification be on the table for the next meeting of Voice.

### **5. Items of Business**

#### **a) Constitutional Review – Change overview**

Members were invited to comment on the changes to the sabbatical structure which is currently being considered by the Association. The Sabbatical officers present suggested that the Sabb team are happy to move to the new model of 'President' and 'Vice Presidents'. It was noted that the sabbatical role is very difficult and only one role can be performed very well, enabling more attention to be placed on the remits of each Officer. Voice noted that the election for the

'President' role would be held with a cross campus ballot however the Second Court Representative would continue to be elected at Student Voice.

Members noted that accountability of Sabbatical Officers could be impacted by the change, there was also concern that the diversity of the Sabb team is not always reflective of the student body. It was requested that further consultation with students was needed to address accountability issues and diversity.

## **b) Motions**

### **i. SAUWS Affiliations – Ratification**

Speech for is taken by SSR: Members were made aware that this motion details the organisations which SAUWS affiliates with and is required to be ratified by Voice.

There was a request for Parts to separate NUS ratification from all others. Guidance was given to the Chair by the MDM that parts would be incompatible with the Education Act, and thus request was rejected.

There are no questions

There is no speech against

Voice move to vote

*For: 5*

*Against: 0*

*Abstain: 1*

*Affiliations are ratified*

### **ii. The Fight Until We Are Fee Free**

Speech for is taken by SSR: We are asking for Voice to pass this motion to enable the Association to fight against any increase in fees for students who currently need to pay fees, this includes Rest of UK (RUK) and international students. Adds that passing the motion will allow the Association to send a delegation to the NUS Demonstration on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

There is no speech against

Member asks what the NUS Demonstration is called. SSR informs members that the demo is called 'United for Education'

There are no further questions

Voice move to vote:

*For: 6*

*Against: 0*

*Abstain: 1*

*The motion passes*

### **iii. Monitoring the Prevent Agenda at UWS**

Speech for is taken by SSR: Informs members of the UK government's Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which asks public bodies including Universities to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and to implement the Prevent agenda. Adds that the Association has serious

concerns about the act and the duties placed on institutions to report such activities. Passing the motion will enable the Officers to monitor and challenge, when appropriate, the implementation of Prevent agenda at UWS via the UWS Prevent Group. We will also lobby the university to be open and transparent about how they are engaging with Prevent and other similar initiatives which involves demanding the publication of how the policy is operating within the university and access to materials used to train staff and students.

There is no speech against.

Member thanked Officers for bringing this to Voice as it is overdue. Concern was also raised about the impact of government policy on Students' and Student Unions generally.

There were no other points

Voice move to vote

*For: Unanimous*

*The motion passes*

#### **iv. TEF Off!**

Speech for is taken by PofSS: Informs members that the UK government are implementing what is called TEF – Teaching Excellence Framework which is linked to fees, this gives Universities the power to increase fee's so long as they meet certain criteria. However in Scotland we already have a very good system for assuring and enhancing the quality of education called QEF – Quality Enhancement Framework. Adds that with UWS opening the Campus in London there is a risk that the University will use TEF as its quality assurance rather than QEF allowing them to increase fees. Passing this motion will allow the Association to be vocal in its opposition to TEF and allow the Officers to lobby the University to not implement TEF at UWS and work with NUS Scotland to prevent TEF being introduced in Scotland.

There is no speech against

Member asks, with regards to the potential 'sabotage' of NSS (National Student Survey) being discussed at NUS, what the Associations stance is on this. SSR states that no decisions have been made around this yet.

Chair asks for the Executive Committee to inform Voice of any discussions and/or decisions in this area.

Voice move to vote

For: 5

*Against: 0*

*Abstain: 1*

*The motion passes*

#### **c) Disciplinary Committee election**

MDM gave an overview of the duties of the Disciplinary Committee and asks for nominations. None are received therefore the election is re-opened and will be forwarded to the next meeting of Voice

#### **d) Appointments Committee Election**

MDM gave an overview of the duties of the Appointments Committee and asks for nominations.

Cameron Stuart and Mark MacPhail expressed interest. An election was held, both students noted are duly elected.

#### **6. Any Other Competent Business**

Jack Douglas enquires about the status of the Officers accountability. Chair responds noting that the intention is to scrap the videos and to introduce a 'Pledge Tracker' to monitor progress of campaigns/other activities. Adds that any suggestions on what students want are most welcome.

Jack Douglas also asks how the Chair plans to promote the next meeting of Voice. Chair responds that the intention is to travel to each campus in a 'roadshow' to advertise Voice and why it's important for students to attend. Will also encourage sports teams and societies to attend too.

Chair informs members that the next meeting of Voice will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, rooms and time will be confirmed via the website at <https://www.sauws.org.uk/union/sauwsstudentsvoice/>

Chair reminds members that any student can submit items for discussion or policy, all the information is available on the SAUWS website.

Chair thanks member for their contribution and declares the meeting closed.

Start: 2pm

Finish: 2.50pm

## 5. Items of Business

- a) **Accountability Statement – Update from Chair – Verbal**
- b) **Governance update – Update from the Union Chair (verbal)**
- c) **Motions**

### i. Gender Neutral bathrooms

Proposed by: LGBT+ Liberation Group, Kate Morrison LGBT+ Officer

#### **Voice Notes:**

1. That UWS does not currently have any gender neutral toilets.
2. The only bathrooms which are available as gender neutral are disabled toilets.

#### **Voice Believes:**

1. That urinating is not sexual
2. That this issue, should be a non-issue. The world will not end if everyone uses the same toilets.
3. Every home has gender neutral toilets
4. That gender neutral toilets are important to ensure the continued safety of LGBT+ students, particularly those that do not define as cisgender (people who identify as the same gender as they were assigned at birth)
5. That gender neutral toilets should not be created from pre-existing accessible bathrooms, which are used predominately by disabled people.

#### **Voice Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Sabbatical Officers to lobby for the creating of Gender Neutral toilets in the new Lanarkshire campus and all existing campuses.
2. That the Students' Association shows its support for gender neutral toilets by transforming at least one bathroom to be gender neutral on each of its sites by the end of the 17/18 financial year.
3. That the toilets should be labelled as "gender neutral" or "Toilet" with no other designations or symbols, save for a notice which may explain who can use the toilets after they are first put in.

### ii. We stand with Spanish Students

Proposed by: Socialist Student Society, Stuart Mill

#### **Voice Notes:**

1. There has been widespread strike action in Spain by students due to the government's neoliberal policy agenda.
2. This has included a 66% increase in tuition fees, pricing many students out of an education.
3. There has also been a deep austerity cut to schools and colleges, leading to teacher shortages

#### **Voice Believes:**

1. That privatisation and commercialisation of places of learning is wrong and divisive.

2. Students and teachers across the world should stand in unity and solidarity against austerity in our education system

**Voice Resolves:**

1. That SAUWS will always fight for free education
2. That SAUWS support Spanish students, and students in all countries, who are fighting against austerity cuts to their future
3. That SAUWS will send a message of support to the Sindicato De Estudiantes Student Union who organised the strike

iii. Policy Passed in Academic Year 2011-12

- a. Equal Marriage

<b>Date Passed:</b>	<b>15.11.11</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Garry Quigley, President of the Students' Association</b>
<b>Scheduled for Lapse:</b>	<b>End of AY 15/16</b>

**Council notes:**

1. That the Scottish Government has launched a consultation on the possibility of legalising same sex marriage in Scotland.
2. That the Equality Network's Equal Marriage campaign is calling on organisations and individuals to respond to the consultation in support of same sex marriage and mixed sex civil partnership.
3. That there is an NUS Scotland Equal Marriage Campaign.
4. That the Scottish Government has committed itself to listening to all views expressed in the consultation and has stated "no final views have been reached and no decisions have been taken."
5. That the Scottish Government is coming under significant pressure from organisations and individuals opposed to same sex marriage and mixed sex civil partnership.

**Council believes:**

1. That same sex marriage and mixed sex civil partnership should be legalised in Scotland.

**Council resolves:**

1. For the Students' Association to submit a formal response to the Scottish Government consultation '*The Registration of Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriage: A Consultation*' (2011) in support of legalising same sex marriage and mixed sex civil partnership.
2. For the Students' Association to register their support for the *Equal Marriage* campaign and sign up to the *Equal Marriage Pledge*: 'We, the undersigned, support the Equal Marriage campaign's call for the legalisation of same-sex marriage and mixed-sex civil partnership in Scotland.'
3. For the Students' Association to encourage students to submit individual responses to the consultation.
4. For the Students' Association to support and get actively involved in the *Equal*
5. *Marriage* campaign's ongoing work to lobby the Scottish Parliament to introduce same sex marriage and mixed sex civil partnership in Scotland.

b. Extended Curfew Time

<b>Date Passed:</b>	<b>15.12.11</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Nick Targontsidis</b>
<b>Scheduled for Lapse:</b>	<b>End of AY 15/16</b>

**Council Believes:**

1. A couple of years ago a midnight curfew was imposed on nightclubs and bars in Renfrewshire.
2. The curfew was taken away but the union have kept the midnight curfew.
3. Students coming from bars generally closing at 1am are denied entry.
4. It is the door staffs job to assess if students are allowed in or not so a curfew shouldn't make a difference.

**Council resolves:**

1. Union resolves to change the curfew to one o'clock in the morning.

c. Burlesque Motion

<b>Date Passed:</b>	<b>20.03.12</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Alistair Adamson, Sports President</b>
<b>Scheduled for Lapse:</b>	<b>End of AY 15/16</b>

**Council notes:**

2. Burlesque has existed since the 18th century
1. Burlesque is an art form
2. No genitalia is ever shown

**Council Believes:**

1. The student body is diverse and that we should not dictate how people want to express themselves
2. We are here to give students new experiences and educate
3. The video of the great Burlesque night last year depicted the show in a bad light

**Council resolves:**

1. Burlesque should be allowed to be shown in the union

d. Library Fines Amnesty

<b>Date Passed:</b>	<b>20.03.12</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jamie Kinloch</b>
<b>Scheduled for Lapse:</b>	<b>End of AY 15/16</b>

**Council notes:**

1. That students are currently allowed to borrow up to 15 books from the university library.

2. That fines are capped at £10 per book.
3. That in the most extreme circumstances, students could owe a total of £150 in fines.
4. That students with overdue loans and fines will be prevented from graduating and that limited access to resources may be a barrier to education for students moving between third and fourth year of their studies.
5. That all libraries in Glasgow are currently holding a fines amnesty, encouraging those with overdue books, CDs and DVDs to bring them back, have their fees waived and re-engage with what their library offers.

**Council believes:**

1. That unreturned items are a problem for students who want to borrow a book that is in the possession of someone else and can lead to reduced library resources for all students.
2. That fines are used by the university as a deterrent and that foregoing the income derived from them for one week would have no detrimental economic impact on the university budget.
3. That if university policy on fines prevents students from graduating, the university and the student association has a duty to ensure students are aware of this and to provide them with opportunities to address the situation.

**Council resolves:**

1. To lobby the university management and librarian for a one week amnesty, during which overdue books can be returned and fine balances reset to £0
2. To hold a number of on campus events (including lecture announcements, PR and posters and an all student email) before and during amnesty week to encourage as many students as possible to return their books.

e. A Helpline On Student cards

<b>Date Passed:</b>	<b>19.04.12</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>SAUWS LGBT Group</b>
<b>Scheduled for Lapse:</b>	<b>End of AY 15/16</b>

**Council Notes:**

1. UWS is one of the few institutions in the west of Scotland to have no helpline or emergency number at the back of their studentcards.
2. It is in the Student Association's and the University's best interest to keep students safe.
3. Students are more likely to suffer from stress and other types of mental illnesses.
4. Students in some social groups can be more unsafe than others, such as students who are woman, disabled, BME, LGBT and so on.
5. Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonia University both have a contact number on the back of their studentcards ran by nightline.
6. Nightline is a confidential telephone and online listening and information service ran by trained students for the students of Glasgow Caledonian and Strathclyde Universities.
7. Universities.
8. On nightline you can discuss private issues, if you are stressed, in danger, if you are not coping or even just want a gab.
9. The City of Glasgow College is also looking at becoming part of nightline.

**Council Believes:**

1. Students' time spent at university is supposed to be some of the best years in a student's life, not the worst.
2. By having a helpline or emergency number it will allow students to voice their problems.
3. Any helpline or emergency number at the back of a students' card is better than no number at all.
4. A helpline or an emergency number at the back of a studentcard will benefit ALL students.
5. All new studentcards should have an emergency number or helpline such as something like nightline, the police or an equivalent.

**Council Resolves:**

1. For SAUWS to discuss with the people who run nightline, to see if it is possible for the University of the West of Scotland to use their number.
2. For SAUWS to lobby the University of the West of Scotland to change the back of studentcards to have an emergency phone number or helpline, such as nightline or the contact details for the police or something similar.